

## NOAA In Your State



# Connecticut



**NOAA** is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.

The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights, then by [congressional districts and cities or towns](#), [coastal programs](#), and then [statewide programs](#).

### Highlights of NOAA in Connecticut

<a href="#">NOAA Corps Officer Training Center</a>	New London	CT-2
<a href="#">Milford Laboratory</a>	Milford	CT-3
<a href="#">"Animals Without Passports" exhibit</a>	Norwalk	CT-4

The state of Connecticut also has one Labs and Field Offices and one Science on a Sphere® exhibitions.

## Science On a Sphere®

Bridgeport CT-4

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes. It is located at the Discovery Museum in Bridgeport.

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### CT-2

#### Mystic

#### **NOAA Office of Education - Environmental Literacy Program**

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Connecticut, ELP supports the Mystic Aquarium (New London) as a member of the Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center (CELC) Network, which is a consortium of 25 aquariums and marine science education centers working together to engage the public in protecting coastal and marine ecosystems.

#### New London

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - New London PORTS®**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) in New London provides real-time oceanographic data and other navigation products to promote safe and efficient navigation within U.S. waters. This system consists of one water level (tide) and meteorological station and one tidal current meter.

#### **Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) - NOAA Corps Officer Training Center**

On December 21, 2012, the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps graduated the first class of officers to be trained alongside the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) officer candidates at the NOAA Corps Officer Training Center (NCOTC). NCOTC is co-located with the USCG's Officer Candidate School on the grounds of the USCG Academy. NCOTC provides training to new officers during the Basic Officer Training Class (BOTC) as well as training experienced officers returning to sea duty through refresher classes. BOTC is a very demanding and fast-paced program with three principal objectives that include introduction and orientation to the NOAA organization and its missions; introduction to the customs, duties and responsibilities as a commissioned officer in a uniformed service; and development of maritime and nautical skills, with emphasis on shipboard operations, organization and management, small boat handling, marine navigation, ship handling, seamanship, and related subjects.

Approximately 50 percent of the training curriculum is provided during formal classroom instruction and the remainder takes place during field activities, labs, and underway training. Comprehensive exams and practical demonstrations of leadership, management and seagoing skills are important aspects of the program. In order to reinforce an understanding of shipboard organization and operations, the Class is organized and operated similar to a shipboard environment. Officers are considered to be on call 24 hours per day, seven days a week; the normal workday will begin at 0500 (5:00 am) and will end at 2200 (10:00 pm). Weekends are filled with various training events, both maritime and leadership

related. BOTC is in session for approximately five months and upon completion of the training, officers are either assigned to a NOAA ship for approximately three years of sea duty or report to initial flight training to become an aviator.

**NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Nautical Science and Underway Training Officer](#)**

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations an officer at the United States Coast Guard Academy in support of the academy's four-year Navigation and Nautical Science curriculum. This officer serves as an instructor alongside 11 other USCG and US Navy Lieutenants, teaching cadets the principles behind terrestrial and celestial navigation, maritime communications, nautical rules of the road, relative motion theory, collision avoidance, basic emergency procedures, and the USCG MMC Master 100 Ton course requirements. In addition, they assist with the USCG Academy Summer Training each year for 250 cadets, fulfill USCG Academy watchstanding duties throughout the year, and assist with other collateral and ancillary duties as required by the Academy.

**CT-2**

**[New London, Bridgeport](#)**

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

The National Ocean Service (NOS) operates two long-term continuously operating tide stations in the state of Connecticut, which provide data and information on tidal datum and relative sea level trends, and are capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. These stations are located at New London and Bridgeport. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

**CT-3**

**[Milford](#)**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Milford Laboratory](#)**

The Milford Laboratory was established in 1931 with support of the shellfish industry, and is one of two large aquaculture research facilities within NMFS. The Milford Laboratory conducts an integrated aquaculture research program studying culture methods, and developing methods for commercial aquaculture, stock enhancement and restoration. They also evaluate interactions between aquaculture practices and the environment, and what characteristics make a habitat suitable for a particular species of environmental or commercial importance. The lab is internationally known for its foundational work on shellfish culture.

**NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Vessel Operations Coordinator, Milford Lab](#)**

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations an officer with the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Milford Laboratory in support of its maritime operations. As vessel operations coordinator, the officer performs a variety of administrative and operational duties, including planning and executing the operational budget and acting as regional representative to other government and local agencies and universities. In addition, the officer serves as OIC of the R/V VICTOR LOOSANOFF, leading operations in routine and emergency situations, providing oversight and direction to the crew, and planning and managing operations and all logistical aspects of the team. When necessary, they also serve as Laboratory Director and Branch Chief.

**CT-4**

**[Bridgeport](#)**

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere at Discovery Museum](#)**

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated

images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain complex environmental processes, in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating.

### **Norwalk**

#### **NOAA Office of Education - [Environmental Literacy Program](#)**

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Connecticut, ELP supports the Discovery Museum and Planetarium (Fairfield), which has a permanent exhibit featuring NOAA's Science On a Sphere (SOS) and is a member of NOAA's SOS Users Collaborative Network (SOS Network). The SOS Network connects over 150 science education institutions worldwide to the latest NOAA data as part of a focused effort to increase environmental literacy at all ages.

### **New Haven**

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - [New Haven PORTS®](#)**

A Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) is operated cooperatively with the local maritime community in New Haven Harbor at which real-time data are quality-controlled and disseminated to local users for safe and efficient navigation. Real-time data are available for water level and meteorological data from one location.

#### **National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)**

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

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### **Coastal**

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program](#)**

NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the only federal program dedicated to mapping, characterizing, and understanding deep-sea coral ecosystems, and sharing the information needed to conserve these habitats. The Program -- called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and within the Office of Habitat Conservation -- is working with other NOAA offices and external partners to conduct fieldwork to study the distribution, abundance, and diversity of deep sea corals and sponges. Since 2009, more than 42,500 square miles of seafloor have been mapped and surveyed for deep-sea coral habitats from Florida to Maine, in Alaska and the West Coast, and in Hawaii and the Marianas Trench.

#### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Cooperation with States Program](#) and [Species Recovery Grants](#)**

Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. A total of 25 U.S. territories and coastal states, including Connecticut, currently participate in this program. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. The

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has received funding through this program to support the recovery of shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network](#)**

The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, monitor factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)**

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the state. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. For fiscal year 2020, 43 competitive Prescott Grants were awarded for a total of \$3.7 million, with one award for \$99,996 going to one recipient in Connecticut: Mystic Aquarium.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)**

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. These projects promote recovery of the ecosystem and provide economic benefits from tourism, recreation, green jobs, coastal resiliency, property values and quality of life.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern Regional Associations Coastal Ocean Observing System\)](#)**

The U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, or IOOS®, is a federally and regionally coordinated observing system with 17 interagency and 11 regional partners. The System addresses regional and national needs for coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes data and information. This includes gathering and disseminating regional observations; data management; modeling and analysis; education and outreach; and research and development. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System (MARACOOS) is one of these Regional Associations and its coverage extends from Cape Hatteras to Cape Cod including the estuaries and the continental shelf waters in this region. MARACOOS provides the necessary ocean observing, data management, and forecasting capacity to systematically address prioritized themes maritime safety, ecosystem based management, water quality, coastal inundation, and offshore energy development.

The Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOS) was established to network and expand the existing observing and prediction capacities of a multitude of institutions and agencies throughout New England and Maritime Canada. NERACOOS supports infrastructure that provides over-water meteorological and wave observations in Long Island Sound and the Gulf of Maine to the National Weather Service that are critical to safe navigation. These platforms also support current and dissolved oxygen sensors that provide critical information for

management of hypoxia and harmful algal bloom. Fisheries managers, water quality specialists, the Coast Guard, and many others benefit from accurate and timely ocean observing infrastructure and related decision support tools. The region includes the coastal waters of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. There is overlap with the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (MARACOOS), which also includes the coastal waters of Connecticut and Rhode Island. In addition, partners from the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are involved.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Navigation Manager](#)**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Connecticut. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Connecticut and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Narragansett, RI to support mariners and stakeholders in the Northeast region.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Navigation Response Team](#)**

NOAA's navigation response team (NRT) operates out of New London, supporting navigation in the ports in the northeast. These three-person teams measure depths of a changing seafloor and search for underwater dangers to navigation that can slow down commercial shipping immediately after storm events and other emergencies. The teams provide time-sensitive information to the U.S. Coast Guard or port officials and transmit data to NOAA cartographers for updating navigational charting products.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program](#)**

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. Subject to availability of funding, the program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements for important lands threatened by development. Since 2002, the program has protected more than 110,000 acres of coastal land nationally, including over 16,000 acres protected as in-kind matching contributions. Five Connecticut sites benefited from this program, and these lands are protected in perpetuity.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Zone Management Program](#)**

Through a unique federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management works with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Connecticut. NOAA provides the state coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)**

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related the tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers.



**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Northeast Regional Ocean Council](#)**

To maintain quality constituent service, the NOAA Office for Coastal Management staff in this region work with the Northeast Regional Ocean Council and the coastal states on this board by representing NOAA and serving in leadership roles in three priority areas: ocean planning, coastal hazards resilience and ocean and coastal ecosystem health. These staff also coordinate the deployment of NOAA products and services in this region.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – OR&R [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Resource Coordinator](#)**

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) brings decades of experience, technical expertise and scientific analysis in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills. Eleven regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. OR&R also helps develop preparedness plans that identify spill response actions with the greatest environmental benefit and trains hundreds of members of the response community each year on the scientific and technical aspects of spills.

OR&R identifies and quantifies environmental injury caused by releases of oil and hazardous materials. Our network of Regional Resource Coordinators (RRC's) work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams with the goal of securing the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use. We collaborate with NMFS Restoration Center and NOAA General Council through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) to ensure the process is efficient, legally defensible and restoration focused. To date DARRP has secured over \$927,000 for restoration of natural resources injured by two oil spills and two hazardous waste sites.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - OR&R [Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application](#)**

Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA<sup>®</sup>) is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Northeast Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences.

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**[Statewide](#)**

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [New England Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#)**

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). The New England B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's

community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. New England B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#) and [Greater Atlantic Regional Office](#)**

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitats and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles).

The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the Northeast "multispecies complex" (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, sea herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are North Atlantic right whales, leatherback, loggerhead, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon, and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeons. NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance. The Office also fosters sustainable [aquaculture](#) in the region, with two Regional Aquaculture Coordinators that act as a liaison between federal and state agencies to assist in permitting and coordination activities, supporting aquaculture outreach and education, and collaborating with industry, academia and other stakeholders on regional marine aquaculture issues.

The Northeast Fisheries Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories, the Center uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle* and *Victor Loosanoff*. The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Restoration Center](#)**

The NOAA Restoration Center, within the Office of Habitat Conservation, works with private and public partners locally and nationwide to increase fisheries productivity by restoring coastal habitat. Projects support sustainable fisheries, help recover threatened and endangered species, and reverse damage from disasters like oil spills, ship groundings, and severe storms. Through Community-based Restoration Program projects, more than 1400 acres of fisheries habitat have been restored, rehabilitated, and protected and over 300 miles of streams have been opened to migratory fish since 2000. The local community supported these restoration efforts through the time and effort of over 1,000 volunteers. The Restoration Center works with municipal, state, and other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other partners in Connecticut to restore tidal wetlands, remove dams and other barriers to migratory fishes, modify culverts, construct fishways to restore fish runs, implement project to increase coastal resiliency, control non-native invasive plants,



and restore submerged aquatic vegetation and native shellfish populations. Staff from NMFS' Narragansett, Rhode Island Laboratory are available to provide others with technical assistance for projects in Connecticut.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Office of Law Enforcement Northeast Division](#)**

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities. The Office of Law Enforcement's Northeast Division, which covers Connecticut, is headquartered in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Barre, Vermont serving the Northeast region including Connecticut. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are eight ASOS stations in Connecticut.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Cooperative Observer Program Sites](#)**

The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine homeowners' monthly energy bills. There are 28 COOP sites in Connecticut.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as 911 Telephone outages). NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are four NWR transmitters in Connecticut.

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Connecticut Sea Grant College Program](#)**

The National Sea Grant College Program (Sea Grant) is a federal-university partnership administered by NOAA that integrates research, extension outreach, and education. Sea Grant forms a national network of 34 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico, and Guam. Connecticut Sea Grant supports the wise use and conservation of marine and coastal resources through research, technology transfer, and education in its statewide program. Current research targets estuaries and ecosystem health, with a particular emphasis on projects with relevance to the Long Island Sound and its watershed. Topics include aquaculture, coastal ecosystems and economies, climate adaptation, water quality, seafood and fisheries. Connecticut's Sea Grant Extension staff collaborates with industry and conduct outreach activities in the target research areas. The K-12 education program includes professional development for educators, curriculum consultation, dissemination of resources, program/project evaluation, creating connections between scientists and educators, and facilitating scientists' outreach activities. Administrative offices are located in Groton.

**NOAA Office of Education - [Environmental Literacy Program](#)**

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In Connecticut, ELP supports the Quahog Bowl in Connecticut, one of 25 regional competitions of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB). The NOSB is an academic competition that engages high school students in learning about ocean sciences and related STEM careers while helping them become knowledgeable citizens and environmental stewards. ELP supports the American Meteorological Society's DataStreme courses for K-12 educators through a grant and in-kind support. These courses use weather, climate, and the ocean as contexts for teaching science and improving understanding about the Earth system.

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